

State K-3 Policies

Does the state have any principal certification and/or endorsement requirement specific to early learning?

September 2020

At least 13 states plus Washington, D.C., have principal credentials that cover the preschool through grade 12 span. An additional five states include multiple principal credentials that may include birth through grade three, preschool through grade three and kindergarten through grade six. Six states have credentials specific to the elementary grades, generally kindergarten through grade six. Twenty-five states have no statute, rules or regulations specific to this issue.

The following information was gathered from state statutes and regulations only.

To view other data points, click [here](#).

STATE ▲	DOES THE STATE HAVE ANY PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATION AND/OR ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO EARLY LEARNING?	CITATION
Alabama	Certificates: educational administrator (P-12), principal (P-6), principal (P-12) and instructional leader (P-12).	Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-2-03 Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-3-48
Alaska	Not specified in statute or regulation.	Alaska Admin. Code tit. 4, § 12.345
Arizona	License: standard professional principal (Pre-K-12).	Ariz. Admin. Code R7-2-616

STATE ▲	DOES THE STATE HAVE ANY PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATION AND/OR ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO EARLY LEARNING?	CITATION
Arkansas	License: building level administrator (Pre-K-12).	Administrator Licensure Completion Plan (ALCP) Form
California	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Colorado	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Connecticut	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Delaware	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
District of Columbia	Credential: Principal (Pre-K-12).	D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-A, § 1603
Florida	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Georgia	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Hawaii	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Idaho	Endorsement: school principal (Pre-K-12).	Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.015
Illinois	Endorsement: Pre-K-12.	Public Act 096-0903 (2010)
Indiana	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Iowa	License: Pre-K-12 Administrator (applies to programs serving children from birth through grade twelve).	Iowa Admin. Code r. 282-18.4(272) Iowa Admin. Code r. 282-18.9(272)
Kansas	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Kentucky	Not specified in statute or regulation.	

STATE ▲	DOES THE STATE HAVE ANY PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATION AND/OR ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO EARLY LEARNING?	CITATION
Louisiana	Endorsement: elementary school principal.	La. Admin. Code. tit. 28, Pt CXXXI, 743
Maine	Certificate: teaching principal (K-8).	Code Me. R. tit. 05-071, Ch. 115, § 4.7
Maryland	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Massachusetts	License: school principal/assistant school principal (Pre-K-8).	603 Mass. Code Regs. 7.09
Michigan	Certificate and Endorsement: school administrator (P-12).	Mich. Admin. Code R 380.104
Minnesota	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Mississippi	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Missouri	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Montana	Endorsement: elementary principal (K-8)	MT ADC 10.57.415
Nebraska	Endorsement: principal (Pre-K-12).	92 Neb. Admin. Code Ch. 24, 005
Nevada	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
New Jersey	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
New Mexico	License: educational administration (P-12).	N.M. Admin. Code 6.62.2
New York	Certificate: school administrator (N-12).	N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 80-2.4

STATE ▲	DOES THE STATE HAVE ANY PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATION AND/OR ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO EARLY LEARNING?	CITATION
North Carolina	Licenses: pre-kindergarten (Birth-K), elementary (K-6) and special subjects (K-12).	16 N.C. Admin. Code 6C.0304
North Dakota	Credentials: Elementary Principal (K-8, K-12 and 5-12).	N.D. Admin. Code 67-11-21-06 N.D. Admin. Code 67-11-21-07
Ohio	Licenses: (pre-kindergarten-6) and (pre-kindergarten-12).	Ohio Admin. Code 3301-24-05
Oklahoma	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Oregon	License: P-12.	Or. Admin. R. 584-235-0020
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Rhode Island	Certification: building level administrator (Pre-K-12).	R.I. Gen.Laws Ann. § 16-11-9 R.I. Code R. 21-20-1.10
South Carolina	Certification: elementary school principal (Pre-K-8).	S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-64
South Dakota	Certificate: Principal (Pre-K-12)	S.D. Admin. R. 24:53:08:01-02
Tennessee	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Texas	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Utah	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Vermont	Endorsement: Principal (Pre-K-12).	Vt. Admin. Code 7-1-13:5440
Virginia	Not specified in statute or regulation.	

STATE ▲	DOES THE STATE HAVE ANY PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATION AND/OR ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO EARLY LEARNING?	CITATION
Washington	Certificates: early childhood education (Birth-grade 3) and elementary (K-grade 8).	Wash. Admin. Code 181-82-120
West Virginia	Certificates: early education (pre-K to K) and elementary (K-6).	W. Va. Code R. 126-136-10
Wisconsin	Certificate: Principalship applies to 'early childhood education through adolescence'.	Wis. Adm. Code s EAB 34.065 (Source, 34.32)
Wyoming	Not specified in statute or regulation.	